



NEW REPORTABLE CONDITION: HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN (HBsAg)-POSITIVITY DURING PREGNANCY

Effective December 2000, HBsAg-positive status during pregnancy is a required reportable condition in Washington State. Health care providers are legally required to report to local health departments according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-101 within 3 working days.

Why Report:

- ◆ The primary purpose of identifying and reporting HBsAg-positive pregnant women during each pregnancy is to prevent the transmission of the hepatitis B virus to their infants, who are at very high risk of acquiring the infection and developing serious long-term sequelae unless post-exposure prophylaxis is given on time.
- ◆ Although voluntary reporting of HBsAg-positive pregnant women has been encouraged since 1991, only about 65% of the expected births to HBsAg-positive pregnant are reported in Washington State. This new reporting requirement will increase identification of women with hepatitis B in the prenatal period and help local public health departments assure disease prevention for infants and family members.
- ◆ Local public health department staff work with private providers to assure that:
 - Mothers are counseled about prevention of the infection to their infants and household/sexual contacts and referred to specialist for follow-up;
 - Infants receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B vaccine dose 1 at birth, second dose at 1-2 months of age, and third dose at 6 months of age;
 - Infants receive post vaccine testing (HBsAg and anti-HBs) 3-9 months after the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine to assess infectivity and immune status; and
 - Household/sexual contacts receive pre-vaccination testing and immunization with hepatitis B vaccine, if susceptible.

When to Report:

At any time during **each** pregnancy in which the pregnant woman tests HBsAg positive. It is the responsibility of the provider to assure that the delivery hospital is informed of an HBsAg-positive mother prior to delivery so that appropriate treatment is provided to the infant.

What are the Reporting Requirements:

Health care providers who request the HBsAg test during prenatal care or at the time of delivery are required to report an HBsAg-positive pregnant woman to local public health departments.

For further questions, please contact your local health department or Trang Kuss at the Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program at (360) 236-3555.